

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BONO, Mary (Republican)
Representative, 45th District, California
Elected 7Apr98 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Cleveland, Ohio - 24 October 1961

Home: Palm Springs, California

Marital status: Married (Glenn Baxley) - 2 children from previous marriage

Religion: Protestant

Education: Univ of Southern California, BFA, 1984

Military: None

Profession: Homemaker; restaurant business manager

Political: Won 7Apr98 special election to succeed late former husband Sonny, two-term Republican lawmaker and former entertainer who died in a 5Jan98 skiing accident. Defeated Ralph Waite, actor best known for role in TV's "The Waltons," with 64% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 59% of the vote and in 2002 with 65%.

Bono ran on a platform seen in many campaigns of Congressional widows, one built around promises to carry on her husband's political goals. Her generally conservative message is built around criticism of the size of government and the burden of regulation, which is what Sonny Bono said spurred him to first enter politics. Touts the Republican line on other issues, calling for lower taxes, national debt reduction, a privatized Social Security system and school vouchers.

In the 105th Congress, co-sponsored bill (H.R. 4327) to direct the President to commence an emergency program to build and field as quickly as possible a theater missile defense system capable of defending against the type of ballistic missile that was flight tested on 21Jul98 by Iran.

In the 106th Congress was named to the Small Business Cmte. In response to President's FY00 Defense Budget, observed that even if the Administration's funding predictions were accurate, that would still leave the military \$8B short of what they require. (CR, 2Feb99) Commenting on the military's anthrax vaccine program, said she believes the vaccine is safe and critically necessary to protect troops deployed overseas. Disagreed with critical report issued by House Government Reform Cmte's National Security Subcmte. (Riverside Press-Enterprise, 20Feb00) Urged support for H.R. 3312, Administration Dispute Resolution Act, because it would help combat debilitating Merit Systems Protection Board attrition rates and further reduce costs to taxpayers by ensuring the retention of an experienced cadre of board judges to effectively implement the pilot program. Supported an amdt requiring the Pentagon to give Congress a 120-day notice before moving to sexually integrate the all-male Navy submarines. First voted to endorse the bombing of Yugoslavia, but then changed her vote to a "no" after consulting with colleagues.

In the 107th Congress, had abdominal surgery in January, which kept her out of Washington for 2 months. Supported the aviation bailout bill, H.R. 2926, following the terrorist attacks of September 11.

In the 108th Congress, picked up March ARB, which she shares with Rep Calvert. Additional: Became 36th widow elected to immediately succeed husband as House member (previously married to Sonny Bono). Member, Airpower Caucus. AF Bases: March ARB (shared with Rep Calvert)

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